Amendment to Claims: This Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the Application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1) (Previously presented) A protective crosslinkable coating composition comprising modified epoxy resin and crosslinker the modified epoxy resin being the reaction product, by weight, of

i) from 80 to 99.9 parts of di-epoxy resin of epoxy equivalent weight from 500 to 5000 and formed from the reaction of bis phenol A diglycidyl ether and bis phenol

A and

ii) from 0.1 to 20 parts of reactive material characterised in that

a) the di-epoxy resin contains minor amounts of resin components of molecular weight less than 1000 Daltons and

the reactive material comprises

b) mono-functional organic material of molecular weight at least 100 Daltons having one moiety capable of reacting with the epoxy moieties of the di-epoxy resin and

c) dicarboxylic acid of molecular weight less than 300 Daltons having two moieties capable of reacting with the epoxy moieties of the di-epoxy resin and where the ratio of mono-functional organic material to dicarboxylic acid calculated on a molar basis is from 3: 1 to 12: 1.

2) (Previously presented) A protective crosslinkable coating composition comprising modified epoxy resin and crosslinker the modified epoxy resin being the reaction product, by weight, of

i) from 80 to 99.9 parts of di-epoxy resin of epoxy equivalent weight from 500 to 5000 and formed from the reaction of bis phenol A diglycidyl ether and bis phenol A and

ii) from 0.1 to 20 parts of reactive material characterised in that

a) the di-epoxy resin contains minor amounts of resin components of molecular weight less than 1000 Daltons and
the reactive material comprises
b) mono-functional organic material of molecular weight at least 100 Daltons having one moiety capable of reacting with the epoxy moieties of the di-epoxy resin and
c) tartaric acid having two moieties capable of reacting with the epoxy moieties of the di-epoxy resin.

3) (Currently amended) A coating composition according to Claim 1 [[or Claim 2]] characterised in that the resin component of molecular weight less than 1000 Daltons comprises bis phenol A diglycidyl ether.

4) (Previously presented) A coating composition according to Claim 3 characterised in that the amount of bis phenol A diglycidyl ether extractable from a crosslinked coating of the coating composition is less than 0.3 micrograms/dm^2.

5) (Currently amended) A coating composition according to Claim 1 ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ characterised in that the mono-functional organic material is a mono-carboxylic acid.

6) (Original) A coating composition according to Claim 5 characterised in that the mono-carboxylic acid is tetradecanoic acid.

7) (Currently amended) A coating composition according to any one of [[Claims 1,]] Claim 3 [[to 6]] characterised in that the di-carboxylic acid is tartaric acid.

8) (Currently amended) A coating composition according to [[any one of the preceding Claims]] Claim 1 characterised in that the amount of reactive material comprises from 1 to 20% by weight of the modified epoxy resin.

9) (Currently amended) A coating composition according to [[any one of the preceding Claims]] Claim 1 characterised in that the modified epoxy resin has at least 30% of the number of epoxy groups as on the diepoxy resin from which it is derived.

10) (Currently amended) A process for producing the modified epoxy resin as defined in [[any one of the preceding Claims]] Claim 1 comprising the steps of causing a diepoxy resin of epoxy equivalent weight of from 500 to 5000, formed by the reaction of bis phenol A diglycidyl ether and bis phenol A and containing minor amounts of resin components of molecular weight less than 1000 Daltons to react with a mono-functional organic material of molecular weight at least 100 Daltons and a dicarboxylic acid of molecular weight less than 300 Daltons.

11) (Original) A process according to Claim 10 characterised in that the mono-functional organic material is reacted with the diepoxy resin in a first step, the resulting product being reacted with the dicarboxylic acid in a later step.

12) (Currently amended) A metal container coated with the coating composition according to [[any one of Claims]] Claim 1 [[to 9]].

13) (Currently amended) A process of producing a crosslinked coating on a metal container characterised in that it comprises the steps of applying a coating according to [[any one of Claims]] Claim 1 [[to 9]] and causing the coating to crosslink.

14) (Currently amended) A modified epoxy resin as defined in [[any one of Claims]] Claim 1 [[to 9]].

15) (Currently amended) The use of a modified epoxy resin for reducing the amount of bis phenol A diglycidyl ether extractable from a crosslinked coating composition on the interior surface of a metal container to less than 0.3micrograms/dm, said modified epoxy resin being as defined in Claim 14.

16) (New) A coating composition according to Claim 2 characterised in that the resin component of molecular weight less than 1000 Daltons comprises bis phenol A diglycidyl ether.

17) (New) A coating composition according to Claim 16 characterised in that the amount of bis phenol A diglycidyl ether extractable from a crosslinked coating of the coating composition is less than 0.3 micrograms/dm^2.

18) (New) A coating composition according to Claim 2 characterised in that the mono-functional organic material is a mono-carboxylic acid.

19) (New) A coating composition according to Claim 18 characterised in that the mono-carboxylic acid is tetradecanoic acid.

20) (New) A coating composition according to Claim 2 characterised in that the amount of reactive material comprises from 1 to 20% by weight of the modified epoxy resin.

21) (New) A coating composition according to Claim 2 characterised in that the modified epoxy resin has at least 30% of the number of epoxy groups as on the diepoxy resin from which it is derived.

22) (New) A process for producing the modified epoxy resin as defined in Claim 2 comprising the steps of causing a diepoxy resin of epoxy equivalent weight of from 500 to 5000, formed by the reaction of bis phenol A diglycidyl ether and bis phenol A and containing minor amounts of resin components of molecular weight less than 1000 Daltons to react with a mono-functional organic material of molecular weight at least 100 Daltons and a dicarboxylic acid of molecular weight less than 300 Daltons.

23) (New) A process according to Claim 21 characterised in that the mono-functional organic material is reacted with the diepoxy resin in a first step, the resulting product

being reacted with the tartaric acid in a later step.

24) (New) A metal container coated with the coating composition according to Claim 2.

25) (New) A process of producing a crosslinked coating on a metal container characterised in that it comprises the steps of applying a coating according to Claim 2 and causing the coating to crosslink.

26) (New) A modified epoxy resin as defined in Claim 2.

27) (New) A protective crosslinkable coating composition of Claim 1 wherein the dicarboxylic acid is selected from dicarboxylic acids having a molecular weight less than from 30 to 299 or from 130 to 170.

28) (New) A protective crosslinkable coating composition of Claim 1 wherein the di-carboxylic acid is selected from succinic acid, maleic acid and phthallic acid.